

Attorney Docket No. 10139/12302

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****MAY 02 2008**REMARKS

Claims 21, 34, and 44 have been amended. Claims 1-20 have been canceled. Claims 55-57 have been added. Thus, claims 21-57 are now pending in the above-referenced application. No new matter has been added. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

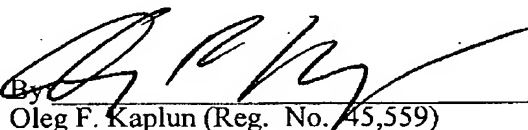
Claims 21 - 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Talos et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,709,686) in view of Thompson (U.S. Patent No. 4,580,225).

Claims 21, 34, and 44 have been amended to recite that the protrusions are non-thread protrusions. Support for this amendment is found in those portions of the specification that describe the protrusions as non-thread elements such as pegs or spikes. See Specification at [0032]. The Examiner has likened partial threads 3 of Talos to the recited protrusions, but with this amendment the comparison no longer holds because a "non-thread protrusion" cannot be met by a thread. Therefore, in view of these amendments, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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